

Adoption: Secret Histories, Public Policies
Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture
2010 Conference Program, MIT

Thursday 4/29/2010

10-6pm	Registration and Book Exhibits	List Atrium
10:30-12:15	Plenary: Adoption in Documentary Film I Chair: TBA Screening: <i>Moms Living Clean</i> , with discussion. Sheila Ganz, writer, filmmaker, San Francisco	Bartos Theatre
12:15-1	Lunch	
1-2:45	Plenary: Adoption in Documentary Film II Chair: TBA Screening: <i>For the Life of Me</i> , with discussion. Jean Strauss, filmmaker and author, Lubbock, Texas	Bartos Theatre
3:00-4:00	Screening and installation: <i>Translating Hiraeth</i> , with discussion. Judy Durey, installation artist, Murdoch University, Western Australia	Bartos Theatre
4:15-5:30	Screening: <i>A Man Without Culture Is Like a Zebra Without Stripes</i> . Ann Somers, Preparation Center for International Adoption, Belgium	Bartos Theatre
5:30-6	Reception	List Atrium
6-7:30	Dinner	
7:30-9:30	Keynote Address: Title TBA Chair: TBA Ann Fessler, Professor of Photography, Rhode Island School of Design and author of <i>The Girls Who Went Away: The Hidden History of Women Who Surrendered Children for Adoption in the Decades Before Roe v Wade</i> (2006).	32-141

Friday 4/30/2010

8am-12pm	Registration and Book Exhibits	Stata Common
9:00am	Welcome	
9:10-10:25	Keynote Address: Title TBA Chair: TBA Lynn Lauber, writer, teacher and birthmother. Author of <i>White Girls</i> (1990), <i>21 Sugar Street</i> (1993), and <i>Listen to Me: Writing Life Into Meaning</i> (2003).	32-124
10:40-12:00	Plenary: Birthmothers Speak Chair: TBA Karen McElmurray, Georgia College and State University Meredith Hall, University of New Hampshire Kate Livingston, University of Cincinnati	32-124
12:00-1:00	Lunch	
1:00-2:30	Plenary: Secrecy and Policy Chair: TBA “Birthmothers: Objects of Others’ Desires.” Elizabeth Samuels, University of Baltimore School of Law	room TBA

	"Sealed Records: Who is Being Protected--and Against Whom?" Adam Pertman, Director, Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute	
	"The ART of Family Connection." Naomi Cahn, George Washington University Law School	
2:45-4:15	Concurrent sessions	
	A. Lesbian/gay Secrecy Issues and Adoption	56-167
	Chair: TBA	
	"Serial Secrets: "Coming-Out" Literature, Social Workers and the Debate on Adoptees' Origins in France." Bruno Perreau, Sciences Po, Paris	
	"Public Triumphs and Disavowed Secrets: Developing a Queer Ethics of Adoption." Jessica Petocz, University of Minnesota	
	"Closet Within My Closet: Growing Up Gay and Adopted." Michael Potter, University of Iowa	
	B. Complications of Search, Reunion, and Aftermath	56-180
	Chair: TBA	
	"Adoptions Neither Open nor Closed: Ambiguous Secrecies in Adoption Narratives by Waldron and Hopgood." Margaret Homans, Yale University	
	"Seven Adopted American Women's Memoirs of Reunion and its Aftermath." Marianne Novy, University of Pittsburgh	
	"The Age of Search and Reunion." Betty Jean Lifton, psychotherapist, Cambridge, Mass.	
	C. Transnational Adoption as Immigration Policy	56-191
	Chair: TBA	
	"Adoption and (as) Immigration: Exceptions, Parallels, and Dilemmas." Sara Dorow, University of Alberta	
	"'They're Cute When They're Young': Adoption and the 'Racelessness' of Babies." Karen Dubinsky, Queen's University	
	"U.S. Immigration Policy and the Embrace of Transnational Adoption in the 1950s and 1960s." Karen Balcom, McMaster University	
4:30-6	Keynote Address: Title TBA	32-123
	Chair: Sally Haslanger, MIT Anita L. Allen, Henry R. Silverman Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania Law School, author of <i>Privacy Law and Society</i> (2007).	
6:00-7:30	Dinner	
7:30-9:30	An Evening of Creative Writing and Performance	32-123
	Chair: TBA	
	"Parallel Tracks." Martha Gelarden, Moore College of Art, Philadelphia; birthmother Adam Lazar, artist, Chicago; adoptee	

[Title TBA]

Ned Balbo, writer, Loyola University, Maryland; adoptee

[Title TBA]

Rosemary Starace, poet, Pittsfield, MA; adoptee

“Whose Records Are They Anyway?”

Craig Hickman, performance artist, activist, Annabessacook Farm, Maine; adoptee

“Ungrateful Daughter.”

Lisa Marie Rollins, activist, Adopted and Fostered Adults of the African Diaspora, UC Berkeley; adoptee

Saturday 5/1

9-6 Book Exhibits

9-10:30 Concurrent Sessions

A. Secrecy and Adoption: Historical Perspectives on the U.S., Europe, and Asia after World War II

56-169

Chair and commentator: Barbara Yngvesson, Hampshire College

“How to Handle a Birthparent: From Local Practice to International Policy in Early Intercountry Adoption, 1948-1960.”

Heide Fehrenbach, Northern Illinois University

“Agencies of Adoption in Britain and Germany after the Second World War until the 1960s.”

Benedikt Stuchtey, German Historical Institute, London, UK

“Jean Paton, Illegitimacy and the Problem of Sealed Adoption Records: A Surprising History.”

E. Wayne Carp, Pacific Lutheran University

Carol Singley, Rutgers University-Camden, commentator

B. Transracial Adoption in Contemporary Literature

56-167

Chair: TBA

“Secrecy in Transnational Adoption: Body as a Trope of Alienation and Reunion in Search Narratives.”

Marina Fedosik, John Jay College

“Alienation and De-Alienation in Korean Adoption Literature.”

Eli Park Sorensen, Cambridge University

“Narratives of Transracial Adoption as Counterhistory.”

Mark Jerng, University of California, Davis

“Strategic Essentialism and Self-Fashioning in Linda Hogan’s *Solar Storms* and Sherman Alexie’s *Indian Killer*.”

Cynthia Callahan, Ohio State University, Mansfield

C. Adoption, Secrecy, Visibility

56-180

Chair: TBA

“The Quiet Russian: Case Study of Russian Adopted Children in Spain.”

Lilia Khabibullina, **University of Barcelona, Spain**

“Racial Difference, (In)Visibility, and Popular Representations of Adoption.”
Heather Jacobson, University of Texas, Arlington

“Secrecy in Constructions of Adoptability.”
Sonja Van Wichelen, Pembroke Center, Brown University

“Secrecy, Adoption and Respect.”
Jason Grinnell, Buffalo State University

10:45-12:15 Concurrent Sessions

A. Adoption in Film 56-167
Chair: TBA

“The Horror of Adoption: The Mother, the Other and the Other Mother in *The Ring/The Ring 2, Silent Hill, The Abandoned* and *The Orphan*.”

Kim Park Nelson, Minnesota State University at Moorhead

“What Kinds of Secrets? The Will to Knowledge in Philippe Claudel’s *Il y a longtemps que je t’aime*.”

Anja Michaelson, Ruhr-University Research School, Germany

“Adoption and the Movies: One Adopted Person’s Perspective.”

Joyce Maguire Pavao, Center For Family Connections, Cambridge, MA

B. Birthmothers: Agency and Activism 56-169
Chair: TBA

Title TBA

Hosu Kim, College of Staten Island

“Recovering Jocasta: Bio-essentialism and Agency in Discourse about Birthmothers.”
Frances Latchford, York University

"A History of Birthmother Activism 1976-2010"

Maryanne Cohen, Concerned United Birthparents, New Jersey

C. Adoption and Culture in 18th-19th c. England and the US 56-180
Chair: TBA

“Illegitimacy in the Early Republic: The Curious Cases of Ben Franklin and Ann Sargent Gage.”

Carol Singley, Rutgers University-Camden

“The Culture of Adoption in the Early Nineteenth Century Novel and Society: Family Portraits in the Life and Novels of Maria Edgeworth and Jane Austen.”

Sue Howard, Duquesne University

“The ‘Delicate Investigation,’ State Censorship, and Adoption Narrative.”

Eric Walker, Florida State

12:15-1:15 Lunch

1:15-2:45 **Gays, Lesbians and Adoption** 32-144
Chair: TBA

Marla Brettschneider, Political Science, University of New Hampshire

John Raible, Education, University of Nebraska

Sarah Tobias, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission

3-4:30	Concurrent Sessions	
	A. Biological Preference Critiqued and Analyzed	56-167
	Chair: Sally Haslanger, MIT	
	“Unknown Origins: Blood, Secrecy, and African Taboos about Formal Adoption.” Kristen Cheney, University of Dayton	
	“Reproducing Bastards: The Figure of the Adoptee in Arguments against Anonymous Gamete Donation.” Kimberly Leighton, American University	
	“Preferring a Child of One’s Own.” Tina Rulli, Yale University	
	“Is Biocentric Kinship Necessary?” Charlotte Witt, University of New Hampshire	
	B. Adoption Practices: Analysis and Impact	56-169
	Chair: TBA	
	“Choices and Options: The Role of the Agency in the Adoption Process.” Liz Raleigh, University of Pennsylvania	
	“ ‘Neither Common Sense Nor Justice’: Religious Matching & Adoption in Canada.” Jenny Gilbert, University of Toronto	
	“The Nation’s Gardeners: The Interpretation of Heredity Through Adoption Casework.” Patti Phillips, York University	
	“Hidden Consequences of the Adoption and Safe Families Of 1997: A Policy Project Addressing The Impact on Incarcerated Mothers” Susan Castagnetto, Intercollegiate Women's Studies of the Claremont Colleges	
	C. Creative Writing on Adoption	56-180
	Chair: TBA	
	From <i>Walking Towards Everything New: A Russian Adoption Memoir</i> . Cassie Kircher, Elon University; adoptive mother	
	From <i>If You Were Mine</i> Carol LeFevre, University of Adelaide, Australia; adoptive mother	
	[Title tba] Jennifer Kwon Dobbs, St. Olaf College; adoptee	
	From <i>Lost and Found: A Memoir of Mothers</i> Kate Vogl, writer, Loft Literary Center, Plymouth, Minnesota; adoptee	
	From “The Birthday Party” Patrick McMahon, writer and activist, San Diego; adoptee	
4:30-5:30	ASAC business meeting	56-180
6-7:30	Banquet	R&D Commons
7:30-9:30	Keynote Address: (title??)	32-123
	Chair: TBA	
	DeAnn Borshay Liem, Filmmaker of <i>First Person Plural</i> (2000), and <i>In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee</i> (in production)	

Sunday 5/2

9-10:30

Concurrent Sessions

A. Transnational and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Operation Babylift 56-169
Chair: Karen Balcom, McMaster University

“The Politics of Orphans: The Vietnam War and Adoption Reform in Canada.”
Tarah Brookfield, Wilfred Laurier University

“Politics and the Pawns of War: Operation Babylift in Australia.”
Joshua Forkert, University of Adelaide, Australia

“We Shall Never Meet.”
Aimee Phan, California College of the Arts

B. Secrecy and Openness: Legal Issues 56-180

Chair: TBA

“Preventing Harmful Secrecy: Blood-ties, Best Interests and Veto Victims.”
Alice Diver, School of Law, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland

“What Went Right and What Went Wrong: Ontario Adoption Disclosure Legislation and the Future of Law Reform Efforts Regarding Genetic Knowledge.”
Cindy Baldassi, UBC Faculty of Law

Letting the Genes Out of the Bottle: Should New Paradigms in Medicine Lead Us to New Paradigms in Adoption?
Martha Satz, Southern Methodist University

“ ‘Save Haven’ Laws: Promoting the Culture of Secrets and Shame in an Age of Adoption Openness--Ohio Case Study.”
Marley Greiner, activist, *Bastard Nation*, Ohio

C. Adoption and Politics in Contemporary Irish, English, and Swedish Novels 56-191

Chair: TBA

“Searching for the ‘I’: The adoption trope in Sebastian Barry's *The Secret Scripture* and Benjamin Black's *Christine Falls*.”
James M. Smith, Boston College

“Small Island, Secret Island: Andrea Levy, Adoption and Race in the UK.”
John McLeod, University of Leeds, UK

“Secrecy, Openness, and Response in Ninni Holmqvist's *The Unit*.”
Claudia C. Nelson, Texas A&M University

10:45-12:15

Concurrent Sessions

A. Adoptive Parents, Race, Difference 56-169

Chair:

“Forever Half Ethiopian: Challenging Cultural and Biological Differences in the Heart of the Family.”
Katrien De Graeve, Ghent University

“Adoption's Secret and Silence in Spain and/or the Past's Ghosts.”
Diana Marre, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

“The Privilege of Authenticity: What Asian American Adoptive Parents Can Teach Us About Constructing Chinese Culture.”
Andrea Louie, Michigan State University

B. Secrecy, Openness and Other Ethical Issues for Adoptive Parents

56-167

Chair: TBA

“Personal/Philosophical Reflections on One Open Public Adoption.”
Bonnie Mann, University of Oregon

“Adoptee Vulnerability and Post-Adoptive Parental Obligation.”
Mianna Lotz, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

“How Many Parents Can a Child Have? Philosophical Reflections on the ‘Three Parent Case.’”

Samantha Brennan, University of Western Ontario

C. Writing and Publishing about Adoption

56-191

Chair: TBA

“Editing *Adoption & Culture*.”
Emily Hipchen, University of West Georgia

“Writing Adoption in a Digital Age.”
Liberty Hultberg, **University of Pittsburgh**

“The Ethics of Writing Memoirs about Adoption.”
Martha Nichols, Harvard University Extension, freelance writer

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